

RESPONSE
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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-31 are pending in the application and that claims 1-31 are rejected. By this response, claims 1-31 continue without amendment. In view of the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are unpatentable under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS FOR NON-STATUTORY DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner rejected claims 1-31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-29 of United States patent 6,651,000, issued November 18, 2003. Applicants have filed herewith a terminal disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321(c). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the non-statutory double-patenting rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

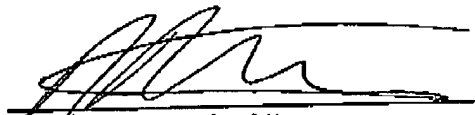
Thus, Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are unpatentable under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Consequently, Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Robert M. Brush, Esq. or Mr. Raymond R. Moser Jr., Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

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Respectfully submitted,

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